

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
Superintendent of Public Instruction
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Superintendent Torlakson:

The Chinese American Equalization Association (HQA) asks to include the Asian Lunar New Year as part of the History –Social Science Framework.

Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian communities around the world, including the United States, and especially California - where it is predominantly celebrated by 2.5 million Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese residents as a significant part of their deeply held cultural family traditions.

Please include a discussion of the Asian Lunar New Year in the History-Social Science Framework. The discussion should focus on how the Lunar New Year is a tradition that is practiced in different communities. Students should compare how it is celebrated in their local communities and how it connects people today to traditions from the past. The framework should also note that this sometimes is viewed as a religious holiday and the teaching of the Lunar New Year should be done respectfully while avoiding endorsing religious practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted' followed by a stylized surname.

Ted Tian, President

Chinese American Equalization Association (HQA)

cc. Thomas Adams, Ph.D., Executive Director, Instructional Quality Commission
Michael Kirst, President of the State Board of Education